

A circular black and white stamp. The text "OIP E JC147" is curved along the top inner edge. The text "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "FEB 13 2003" is printed horizontally.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

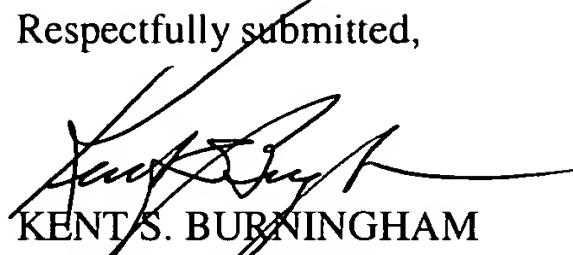
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In response to the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 19, 2002, kindly amend the specification of the above-captioned continuation application as indicated on the following page:

[0001] This application is a continuation application of copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 139,705 that was filed on August 25, 1998 (hereinafter "the Parent Application"), and that issued as United States Patent No. 6,206,849 on March 27, 2001. The Parent Application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 481,169 that was filed on June 7, 1995 (hereinafter "the Grandparent Application"), and that issued as United States Patent No. 5,797,869 on August 25, 1998. The Grandparent Application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 205,331 that was filed on March 3, 1994 (hereinafter "the Great-Grandparent Application"), and that issued as United States Patent No. 5,472,417 on December 5, 1995. The Great-Grandparent Application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 785,351 that was filed on October 30, 1991 (hereinafter "the Great-Great-Grandparent Application"), and that is now abandoned. The Great-Great-Grandparent Application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 288,364 that was filed on December 22[27], 1988 (hereinafter "the Great-Great-Great-Grandparent Application"), and that issued as United States Patent Application No. 5,195,962 on March 23, 1993. This application is also related to United States Patent Application Serial No. 699,421 that was filed on May 31, 1991, as a divisional application of the Great-Great-Great-Grandparent Application, and that issued as United States Patent No. 5,135,599 on August 4, 1992.

DATED this 13th day of February, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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